

# Wellesley Village Church

*Congregational † United Church of Christ*

## Befriending Our Soul

*Lent 2023*



**10:00 AM Worship**  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
*March 19, 2023*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 19, 2023

10:00 AM

Hymns may be found in the New Century (black) hymnal unless noted otherwise.

\*Please stand as you are able.

What a blessing it is to have you here today!  
Please use this QR code to register your presence.



. . .

**PRELUDE**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  
Kristjon Imperio, organist

*J. Bert Carlson*

**WELCOME & PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Stacy Swain

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 1** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps during the last verse  
for their time as young disciples.*

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Michaela McDonald

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you,

**And, also with you.**

*Please stand as you are able and share a greeting of peace with one another.*

**HANDBELLS ANTHEM** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*Sondra K. Tucker*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 23

**SERMON**

“Who Is God to You?”

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 509 "How Deep the Silence of the Soul"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martha Schick

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Offertory

"The Lord is My Shepherd" from *Requiem*  
Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Kevin McDonald, Conductor  
Kristjon Imperio, Organ  
Julianne Verret, Oboe

*John Rutter*

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness  
For his Name's sake. For his Name's sake. For his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.  
For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord. In the house of the Lord forever.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen**

**To give:**



**COMMON LIFE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 560 "By Whatever Name We Call You"**

**\*WELCOME TO VISITORS AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618"**

*J.S. Bach*

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

†††

*Following the service ALL ARE INVITED  
to join in the sharing of refreshments and conversation in Village Common.*

*VISITORS - We're so glad you are here!  
Please introduce yourself to a pastor near the Welcome sign.*

**TODAY**

- 9:00am**      **Worship, Chapel**, Rev. Megan Berkowitz, preaching; Rev. Martha Schick
- 10:00am**      **Worship, Sanctuary and Livestream**, Rev. Stacy Swain, preaching;  
Rev. Megan Berkowitz; Rev. Martha Schick; Michaela McDonald
- Childcare, Family Worship Room**
- Children's Church, Sanctuary**, then pick up on Upper Level,  
Michaela McDonald
- Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room**, Rev. Pam Emslie
- 10:50-11:20am** **Village Children's Choir**
- 11:15am**      **Coffee and Fellowship, Village Common**
- 5:00pm**      **Worship at Congregational Church of Weston**, Rev. Megan Berkowitz
- 7:00pm**      **High School Youth Group, Youth Room**, Rev. Pam Emslie

**VISITORS INFORMATION  
WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!**

If you are visiting, please let one of the pastors know,  
so that we can welcome you fully.

*We would love to meet you!*



**COMING UP**

**~ Spring Seekers Orientation ~**

Are you interested in exploring what Wellesley Village Church has to offer?  
Are you curious about becoming a member?

We invite you to attend the  
**Spring Seekers Orientation sessions**  
**at 11:30am on March 26<sup>th</sup> (in the Chapel) and April 23<sup>rd</sup> (in the Parlor and on Zoom)**  
to learn more about our faith community.  
We will then welcome new members on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Attend one or both of these sessions to learn about how Village Church works,  
how we fit into the United Church of Christ, and how we are “church” together!  
Childcare will be available at both sessions. Contact Rev. Martha Schick with questions  
or to RSVP at: [martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)



# Befriending Our Soul

*Lent 2023*

## *Befriending Our Soul*

### **A Lenten Practice of Tending to Our Roots**

**WORSHIP: Lenten Sundays 2/26-4/2**

- **9a Chapel Worship**
- **10a Sanctuary worship** with livestream, 11a Fellowship hour
- **5p Congregational Church of Weston (CCW) service**

### **HOLY WEEK**

- **Palm Sunday** 9a & 10a, April 2
- **Maundy Thursday** 7p, April 6
- **Good Friday** 7p, April 7
- **EASTER Sunday** April 9 Services:
  - 7a Sunrise with Communion
  - 9a Sanctuary and Livestream
  - 10:15a Fellowship & 10:25a Egg Hunt
  - 11a Sanctuary and Livestream

Scan for details or visit: **WellesleyVillageChurch.org**



## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & ACT

### **Open Chapel for Walking the Labyrinth: A Sacred Journey for Our Souls**

*Wednesdays from March 1 – 28th, 7:00-8:00pm, Chapel*

Throughout Lent, the labyrinth will be open for walking on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm. Come once or come every Wednesday. All are welcome. Contact: [stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org). To learn about the history of Pilgrimage and Labyrinth walking from the Center of Action and Contemplation click [HERE](#) or visit our Common Life Opportunities web page at: [wellesleyvillagechurch.org/common-life-opportunities](http://wellesleyvillagechurch.org/common-life-opportunities)."

### **Village Church Parents Group (VCPG)**

*Sundays March 26 and May 7, 7:00-8:30pm, church parlor*

We are a group of Village Church parents walking in faith together. We gather for conversation and support, especially when our kids -- or we!--struggle. Please feel welcome to join us to connect with other parents and to share our stresses, joys, tips, and resources. All parents are welcome! Email Caroline Johnson Hodge at [ceh47@gmail.com](mailto:ceh47@gmail.com).

### **Empty Nesters + Walking Group**

We are a group of singles and couples (not just empty nesters), who gather weekly, weather permitting, for a walk in various locations, currently at the beautiful Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley. Won't you join us? Email at [Christina.oliver20@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.oliver20@gmail.com) to receive a weekly email for location details and confirmation or cancellation, pending weather.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Calling all knitters and crocheters! You are invited to join in a special ministry to create prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. This is a rewarding way to use your creative hands, as well as help the church be ready when needs that arise. All materials and patterns will be provided and help given as needed. Please contact Bobbie Hayes (781-400-1333) for more information.

## Book Drive for Tanyaradzwa Children's Home - March 5-31st

Please join Village Children's Church in our book drive to provide much needed books for this children's home in Zimbabwe. New or gently used children's books (ages 0-18) can be dropped off in the 1st floor lobby (cemetery entrance) in a marked bin. Gently used tablets to load education programs on are also welcome. Donations gratefully accepted to cover the freight costs by following this QR code→ Wellesley Village Church member Chipu Dendere will be delivering the books when she visits this summer.

Email Chipu with any questions [chipu.dendere@gmail.com](mailto:chipu.dendere@gmail.com).





## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Warm greetings from the Village Church Stewardship Committee. We are three-quarters of the way to our goal of \$1.4 million. Over 150 members have made commitments of all sizes – an enthusiastic response to the many plans for choosing love and making it real. This year’s dollar goal is 8% higher than last year's because the Church is investing more in our Service, Learning, Worship, Sharing & Community ministries.

If you have not yet made your pledge or gift, please do so by returning your pledge card. You may also give on-line at [wellesleyvillagechurch.org/give](https://wellesleyvillagechurch.org/give). If circumstances allow increasing the size of your commitment, this will accelerate our progress. Pledging now allows the Finance Committee to better manage expenditures. In addition, members of the Stewardship Committee are beginning to follow up, so knowing your intentions will make our job much easier.

As we approach the joyous celebration of Easter, we hope making your “best gift” is an enjoyable process. We are all so fortunate to belong to this special community where we can deepen our faith and practice our values.

## **CLOISTER WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

*BEHOLD as we live out our values by beautifying the Cloister  
so that it will BECOME warm and lovely!  
Rejoice in the Greening of our BELOVED CHURCH!*

Today! Take a walk through the Cloister! The windows in our beautiful Cloister have been replaced as part of our environmental efforts to "green" our church.

### **Cloister Upgrades**

by Jim Mongiardo, on behalf of the Energy Committee

Workmen have removed the 70-year-old, single pane windows and doors in the Cloister, and replaced them with custom built Pella high energy efficient insulated dual tempered glass windows and doors. This will greatly reduce the loss of energy in the Cloister.

The second part of the plan, which is being designed, will be to extend the HVAC system from the Chapel to the ceiling of the Cloister to provide both heating and air conditioning to make the space comfortable at all times.

The project is being managed by the Energy Committee which was formed in 2015 to use 10% of the 2014 Capital Appeal (about \$432,000) for the "greening", or in today's terms, the "sustainability" of the Church.

Projects over the past ten years have included the solar arrays on the roof, replacing the sashes of the Parish House windows, insulating the Upper Room, replacing inefficient lighting with more efficient LED lighting and making the existing heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) as efficient as they can possibly be. Working with the Board of Properties, the Energy Committee will be making recommendations to the Congregation on sustainability upgrades to the HVAC system which is now past its expected useful life.

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**Kathy Schleyer** ~ Moderator  
**Joe Morray** ~ Vice Moderator  
**John Snyder** ~ Immediate Past Moderator

## PASTORS

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter**,  
**Sr. Pastor** *is on sabbatical, returning 5/14/23*  
[sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sarah@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**The Rev. Pam Emslie**, **Assoc. Pastor, Youth Minister**  
[pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:pam@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**The Rev. Stacy Swain**, **Assoc. Pastor, Congregational Care and Engagement**  
[stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:stacy@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## PASTORAL RESIDENTS

**The Rev. Megan Berkowitz**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**The Rev. Martha Schick**, 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
[martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:martha@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## MINISTRY DIRECTORS

**Michaela McDonald** – Children’s Ministry  
[michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:michaela@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Dr. Kevin McDonald** –  
Director of Music & Youth Music  
[kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kevin@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Kristjon Imperio** – Organist &  
Assist Music Director  
[kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:kristjon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Ilana Cady** – Chapel Worship Lead Musician  
[ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:ilana@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Meg Sweeting** – Church Administrator  
[meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:meg@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Christine Toppin** – Communications  
[christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:christine@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Sharon Funk** – Admin. Assist.  
[sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:sharon@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)  
**Marina Berga** – Church Accountant  
[marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:marina@wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

At Wellesley Village Church, we believe in a vision for God’s Beloved Community where all people are welcomed and enthusiastically affirmed, as well as honored and celebrated as made in God’s holy image. This intentional inclusivity welcomes people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, abilities, family dynamics and configurations, and so much more. We recognize that our world and our church community do not always live into this vision, and yet as a church, we are continually working to widen our welcome and witness. If you have suggestions for how we can better welcome you and those you love, please reach out to Rev. Megan Berkowitz at:  
[megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org](mailto:megan@wellesleyvillagechurch.org).

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## WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational • United Church of Christ

*Choose Love. Make it Real.*

For information, please visit our website at:

[wellesleyvillagechurch.org](http://wellesleyvillagechurch.org)

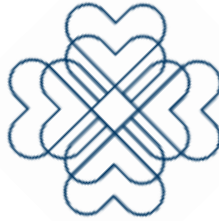
For smartphone access →  
Or speak to any one of us!

2 Central Street,  
Wellesley, MA 02482

Church Office & Directory: 781-235-1988

Urgent Pastoral Care Cell: 781-591-7451





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